



Branching Out

March 13, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

TREE meetings:

David Ruble and I were at a multi-day training the last week in February. Dave is one of the people from DEQ monitoring the networks such as ours. We had several opportunities to talk, and he said he was very impressed with TREE and how much we have accomplished in such a short time. There are now 11 EE networks in the state (up from two before the grant), and he thinks we are the best new one. Way to go team! We're getting noticed!

Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Please bring a lunch. Visit their website at www.stratfordhall.org

Local Events:

March 14 Lauck's Island Tour & Picnic

Hop into rafts and float over to explore this fascinating island in the Rappahannock. Dr. Robert Wheeler and naturalist guides will take participants on an interpretive hike to visit the old homestead ruins, identify native plants, and much more! Bring a bag lunch for a picnic on the island's beach. This is a great family event. Minimum age is 6 yrs. 10 am-3 pm. *Backup: March 15.* The cost is \$20 for an individual and \$60 for a family (up to four people). Pre-registration required, call Friends of the Rappahannock at 540-373-3448 to register.

Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local—Food for Thought

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners will present their annual Gardening the Northern Neck seminar on Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene in White Stone. Morning and afternoon keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and a market place are planned. For more information and registration details call the Northumberland Extension office at (804) 580-5694 or e-mail kingdon@kaballero.com

Dragon Run Kayak Trip on Monday, April 13

There are only 8 spaces for Monday, April 13th to kayak part of the Dragon Run with Teta Kain. Three spaces have already been reserved, so there are **5 spaces left**. The kayaks are provided for this guided tour. For information about Dragon Run, please go to www.dragonrun.org;

Please let Sally Caskie know by **Friday, March 27th** if you would like to participate. These spaces will fill up quickly! Sally will send a copy of the information form and the release form to you at that time. Please note first to reply will get the remaining spots.

Sally caskie@rivnet.net or 804-472-5128

Invasive species workshop designed for landowners, landscapers, public officials

Saturday, April 25, 2009

9:00am - 2:00pm

Beale Memorial Baptist Church, Tappahannock

Registration Fee \$5.00

Includes lunch and a short field demonstration on pesticide use, and speakers from US Fish and Wildlife, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Cooperative Extension and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Call Tidewater RC&D Council for more details and to register
804-443-1118

Grants

Other Events:

The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, offers a variety of activities and materials for afterschool programs, summer camps, scout groups, and other out-of-school educational settings. In celebration of the International Year of Astronomy's 100 Hours of Astronomy, we will be holding an exclusive event on April 2nd for informal educators to learn more about Goddard Space Flight Center and what it has to offer you and your programs.

WHO? Anyone involved in informal education programs - whether you're a leader or administrator, this event is for you!

WHAT? Guided tours of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and an Informal Education Product Showcase to send you home with information, resources, and other goodies

WHERE? NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland

WHEN? Thursday, April 2, 2009

Registration is required by March 15th. Slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, and to register for the event, please visit:

http://astrophysics.gsfc.nasa.gov/outreach/iya/day1_tours.html

For more information about the other 100 Hours of Astronomy events, visit:

<http://universe.nasa.gov/100hours/>

Project WILD & Underground Facilitator Training

May 20th-21st, Douthat State Park

If you are interested in becoming a certified facilitator for these environmental education curricula, please contact [Suzie Gilley](#) or [Carol Zokaite](#).

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

NFF Offers Economic Advice for Nonprofits

[Nonprofit Finance Fund: Recession Recommendations](#)

The Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) works to create a strong, well-capitalized, and durable nonprofit sector that connects money to mission effectively, supporting the highest aspirations and most generous impulses of people and communities. At a recent news event, the Fund presented five recommendations to help nonprofit organizations weather the current economic recession. Visit the NFF website to read the news report and review the timely advice for nonprofits. A link to an audio replay of the Fund's news event, featuring Clara Miller, NFF president and CEO, is also available.

EstuaryLive!

EstuaryLive! will take place May 1 and May 15, 2009 with an annual, free, live, interactive, field trip through our nation's estuaries. This year's program will feature six 30-minute segments broadcasting live from three of NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves. The broadcasts will include a discussion of the impacts of global climate change on our coastal ecosystems. For those who can't watch the live broadcasts, check out the archives.

<http://www.estuaries.gov/>

The Cycle

RecycleBank offers The Cycle, an animated interactive look at the process of single stream recycling and materials reprocessing, following theoretical recyclables after they are collected. The Cycle takes viewers through each step of the process. <http://www.explorethecycle.com/>

Expert Voices Weblog

The National Science Digital Library Expert Voices site provides the latest science news straight from the source: scientists. Expert Voices is a weblog site for experts in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and a forum for educational discussion about the latest STEM news. The weblog supports collaborative STEM conversations among content experts, scientists, teachers, and students from key NSDL audience groups: K12 teachers, university faculty, librarians, and library builders. Moderated conversations are designed to tie NSDL resources to science news and add context for resources that enhance discovery, selection, and use. <http://expertvoices.nsdl.org/>

Flotsam and Jetsam

Flotsam and Jetsam, the Journal of the Massachusetts Marine Educators, is an online quarterly. Each issue has a central theme, such as Ocean Floor Geology, National Marine Sanctuaries, and more, and includes at least one curriculum activity. Previous years' editions are available for general view.

<http://massmarineeducators.org/journal.shtml>

Human Toll of Climate Change

The Center for American Progress has created an interactive map on the human toll of climate change. Compiled from multiple sources, the map provides scientific information on a variety of climate change threats and plots the information geographically to show areas of concern. Contributions of scientific research to the database are invited.

<http://maps.scienceprogress.org/climate/index.php>

Jellyfish Gone Wild

Jellyfish Gone Wild features photos and videos of jellyfish, stinging statistics about jellyfish swarms, and explanations of how and why jellyfish swarms form. The report, available as text or interactive display, provides an overview of the science of jellyfish swarms, tinged with humor. The website also offers additional resources, including jellyfish anatomy, life cycle, and links to other information. http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/jellyfish/index.jsp

Science Tracks Downloads From Teachers' Domain

Teachers' Domain offers free science track downloads for iPods. Topics available include Life Science, Earth and Space Science, and more. Resources available for download include videos and educator guides with discussion questions, background essays, and additional materials.

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/wgbh.org>

Survey and Questionnaire Tutorial

The StatPac group offers a tutorial which teaches how to conduct a survey and design a questionnaire. Learn the latest survey research techniques, what works and what doesn't. The tutorial addresses how to maximize survey response rates and design a questionnaire that gets at the true opinions of your sample. <http://www.statpac.com/surveys/>

Turtle Talks Activity Book

Turtle Talks is a youth conservation eco-literacy project. A team member authored a downloadable children's activity book on sea turtles.

http://www.oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/reports/TurtleTalks_en.pdf

Wildlife Forever

The mission of Wildlife Forever is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. The Wildlife Forever CD-ROM Curriculum is a conservation education supplement that teaches students about a variety of wildlife species, natural resources, ecological concepts, and conservation. The curriculum includes 14 lesson plans designed to cultivate a feeling of personal responsibility for the wonders of nature. They also offer a downloadable lesson plan from the website, along with other products and resources. <http://www.wildlife forever.org/>

Tools with a Cost:

WWMD Test Kits Available

The [water test kits](#) for World Water Monitoring Day '09 are now available online. The kit includes everything you'll need to test your waterbody for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and turbidity and is designed to be an accurate, yet accessible

technology for all levels of experience. If you already have access to monitoring equipment, you are welcome and encouraged to use it! The cost per kit is \$13.00 plus \$7.50 postage and handling. For orders of ten or more kits the p & h is \$1.50 per kit.

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

"Is Grantmaking Getting Smarter?" is a new report from Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO) which explains the current gaps between nonprofit needs and donor practices.

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Deadlines (annually): March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31

The Captain Planet Foundation is accepting applications for funding projects that help students better grasp environmental issues. Projects must promote understanding of environmental issues, focus on hands-on activities, involve students ages 6 to 18, promote interaction and cooperation within a group, help young people develop planning and problem-solving skills, include adult supervision, and commit to follow-up communication with the Foundation. <http://www.captainplanetfoundation.org/Default.asp...>

Support for Company Communities

Burger King Corporation: HAVE IT YOUR WAY Foundation

The Burger King Corporation's HAVE IT YOUR WAY Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations that provide long-term positive impact on the U.S. communities served by the company. In the Improving Education category, the Foundation primarily supports the BURGER KING Scholars Program, with limited support for organizations that seek to improve scholastic opportunities. The Alleviating Hunger category emphasizes finding solutions in the fight against global hunger. The Preventing Disease category supports U.S. efforts to prevent and control chronic disease. In the Youth Programs category, the focus is on organizations that work to better the lives of children and youth. Requests are reviewed three times per year; the next application deadline is May 15, 2009. Application guidelines are available on the Burger King website.

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25. A service of the Points of Light and Hands On Network and sponsored by Target, the event offers opportunities to thank some of America's most valuable assets -- volunteers. Be sure to recognize your volunteers during this special week. Go online to get a [Volunteer Week Resource Guide](#).

Global Youth Service Day events are planned for April 24-26. The event, sponsored by Youth Service America, is the largest service event in the world and is designed to foster a life-long path of service and civic engagement. Youth Service Day is also an opportunity to educate the public, the media, and elected officials about the role of youth as community leaders. [Get more information and download planning materials](#).

Jobs

This one is a little far away, but it is a common daydream to be able to live and work in the Outer Banks.

Conservation Center Director

National Audubon Society, Inc., NC State Office

Location: Duck, NC

Deadline: 5-15-2009

[View details >>](#)

Youth Opportunities

Holiday Lake Forestry Camp takes place **June 15-19** at the **Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox**. This residential, academic camp is attended by 90 students ages 13-16, and each year we have room for five teachers to attend camp for their own professional development. Teachers participate in the same morning classes as the students, then attend afternoon sessions on Project Learning Tree and other natural resource education materials. Teachers attending camp do not have any supervisory duties with regard to the student campers. Full details, including a list of camp classes, are available at www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/camp.shtml. Please contact Lisa Deaton directly at lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov or 804-328-3031 if you would like a Teacher Application

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is now taking applications for the 2009 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program. YCC participants assist with an assortment of projects in Virginia State Parks, including wildlife and fisheries habitat improvement, trail and campground construction and restoration, timber and shoreline improvement, and landscape beautification. Teams of 10 participants will be chosen from current high school students ages 14-17 who demonstrate an interest in protecting Virginia's environment. The YCC application deadline for students is April 11. [Find out more](#)

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact jtritz@vt.edu